

dead beside their guns. Quarters were set up in a ravine near Beaumetz, in filthy English dugouts and barracks. It was pouring with it; the warm bean soup tasted all the better.

The next day we continued with a little sunshine. Easter Sunday! Then it crept up on most of them, would they ever hear the daffodils at home again? But the news from the front was good, and the mood was upbeat. Now the terrible region of the Battle of the Somme in 1916 began. Not a tree, not a bush, not a house—all a great riot; a desolate sight, this land of death! Le Transloy, Lesboeuks, Ginchy, Guillemont — one pile of rubble like the next. A sign saying 'This was Ginchy'. In Lesboeuks quite a large pile of rubble and on top, a little crookedly, a fallen church bell. A terrible sight at the road crossing to Longueval: a small ravine filled with dead Englishmen, horses, artillery, limbers; they were surprised by our gas. Here and there in the field a shot-up tank, a gun, sometimes a whole battery. From afar you could see the poor stumps of the once magnificent St. Pierre-Vaast forest, in which many a brave Augustaner had rested since September 1916. Everyone was quietly thinking.

Then other images appeared. A newly established German ammunition dump in full operation; the field railway was already running, columns of cars drove up to bring the heavy load to the front. Then a gigantic small English train station with a lot of material: right next to it, as usual, a prison camp for Germans. Such a camp between Maricourt and Suzanne was the regimental quarters for this Easter day. But in the distance to the west one could already see the first church tower; then the zone of death is overcome.

On Easter Monday, April 1st, the regiment marched on in a cheerful mood in glorious sunshine. The march went through Bray sur Somme, where the horses could be watered in the river at a short stop. The canal bridge at Laneuville had been blown up by the English, but a new column bridge had already been built 20 meters further. At Proart, the divisional commander, Lieutenant General v. Friedeburg the regiment. Then quarters were moved into, and the next day there was even a rest day here, and in glorious sunshine! On April 3rd the regiment reached Vauvillers in a short march, which was already very overcrowded. Here it got worse again, the next village was already under fire. In these days, from the regimental staff, Medical Officer Dr. Eckard,

who, with his strict sense of duty, had managed the medical services in an exemplary manner. His place was taken by Medical Officer Dr. Charcoal burner.

The following night the order to attack the positions along the Amiens-Paris railway was given, with the 2nd Guards Division to act in the second line on the left wing of the 2nd Army (General Command 51). Everyone was hoping to finally be able to contribute their part to the great cause, and after a short sleep at 2 a.m. on April 4th, they were still standing in the deep darkness in full expectation of the battle.

The division advanced on Caix via Rosières. This village was on fire, every three minutes a heavy caliber came; there were dead and wounded. Crashed vehicles formed a knot. Finally managed to get through; the regiment then marched on Beaucourt, where it had to prepare itself in marching column to follow up. A local attack to expand the bridgehead beyond the More was to be carried out first. However, since the enemy put up a vigorous fight, the regiment had to wait east of Beaucourt in the rain and deep dirt in the open field. In the evening we went a little further, then spent the night in the forest south-east of Moreuil in the pouring rain; a cold hole and a tarpaulin over it—that was the whole night's camp.

In order to tie up enemy forces, further demonstrations were to be carried out over the next few days. The 2nd Guards Division was assigned to the General Command of the III. Army Corps attached and followed 2nd Bavarian Division fighting in Senecat Forest east of Ailly. The regiment crossed the Wore at 630 a.m. and positioned itself on the other bank south of Moreuil. The roads were so bad that machine guns and mortars had to be carried; the vehicles could not follow. The battalions dug in. Artillery fire lay all over the area, so that casualties ensued; fortunately, most of the shots were swallowed up by the wore's swampy terrain. The routes forward and to the neighbors were explored by officer patrols.

In the afternoon the regiment was placed under the 2nd Bavarian Division and received the following orders from this 630 in the evening:

"Enemy breached. Anchin-Ferme taken by the enemy. Enemy advanced via brigade command post. Regiment Augusta advances and prepares to counterattack; it will be the 4th bayr. brigade."

In response to this alarming order, the situation was first reconnoitered and it was established that the enemy had not broken through, but only broke into the front lines and through

counterattack was thrown again. Therefore, only the fusilier batafloon needed to be advanced into the "B-Waldchen" north of height 104.

During the advance there, which took place in complete darkness, Lieutenant v. Hillebrandt, the commander of the 3rd machine gun company, was badly wounded in the arm by a grenade.

The companies dug in about 70 meters from the edge of the forest, the battalion headquarters in the forest itself. In the morning it turned out that the place was not very happy. The very first enemy artillery shot was fired in the midst of the working orderlies of the staff. The day passed with continuous heavy fire raids. In the evening the Bavarian brigade ordered the fusilier battalion to throw out the French who had ensconced themselves in the southern tip of the Senecat forest opposite. The storm was scheduled for the next morning. During the demonstration of the field kitchens, the accident happened that all five were caught by a grenade in a ravine near Moreuil. Of the regular sergeants, the loyal sergeants Schüppler (10th company) and Sommerfeld (3rd machine gun company) met heroic deaths; nothing was found of their bodies. Sergeant Christensen (12th Company) was badly wounded. Half of the kitchen crews were also dead or wounded. Four field kitchens were shot up, eight horses dead. This was sad news for the starving battalion. The night was pitch black, with the usual rain; the mood was therefore quite depressed.

The next day the regiment received orders to move the other two battalions to the "B-Grosse" in order to counterattack in the Senecat-Forest in the event of an enemy attack. Already the march there through the zone of fighting artillery brought casualties.

The regimental staff lay in a hollow between the "Als" and "B" groves; The battalions dug in to the right and left of it, I. and Fusiliers in the front, the II. was to support the imminent attack by firing diagonally from behind.

Sunday April 7 was a difficult day for the regiment.

It was just beginning to get light when the two front battalions began to charge without artillery preparation. It went almost silently over the first line of Bayern and about 200 meters beyond. At this moment, murderous infantry, machine gun and artillery fire began against the 1st Battalion, so that it was initially not possible to advance any further. As it turned out later, the French had

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just about to be relieved, so that their lines were doubly started. The Fusilier Battalion came upon a broad clearing; as the first wave emerged from the sheltering forest, violent fire began. The first wave marched on, the company commanders in front; but in a few moments the casualties in the bare clearing were so great that further advance was impossible. Fire was taken up, but the riflemen lying on the flat ground were at a disadvantage to the French, who were engaged in the forest; those not lucky enough to find cover in a shell hole fell victim to the raging infantry *** and machine gun fire. The heavy machine guns of the German rear lines now fired on the edge of the clearing, bringing some relief. But the attackers were stuck; In addition, the 1st and Fusilier Battalions formed an angle to each other and were surrounded by the enemy. Connections were not available, neighbors did not participate; the Bavarians had withdrawn. And now all hell broke loose! The whole forest was gradually being fired upon by the French artillery. Lieutenants Bessrich and Warkentin fell in this heavy battle; Captain Glodkowsti was wounded. A grenade hit a wooden hut in which the dressing station was set up; she tore up the stretcher bearers and the wounded and killed the intrepid chief physician Dr. Wachenfeld in the middle of his job, who had only recently returned to the regiment after being taken prisoner by the French.

By noon half the brave strikers had been killed or wounded; crawling back was not possible; it meant holding out until dark. A new artillery preparation of our own, which began in the afternoon, hit the middle of our own ranks. The confused grenadiers and fusiliers ran through the forest until they could be reunited at the eastern edge of the forest. Simultaneously, enemy fire pounded through the forest, where trees fell, branches cracked, shells smashed from front and back, and machine-gun shells whistled. Even this magnificent forest, which was still undestroyed in the morning, was doomed to destruction.

The 2nd Battalion, which had been pushed up to provide support, came to a halt under flanking machine gun fire after the first jumps.

As dusk approached, the artillery fire subsided, and it gradually became dead quiet. The line was laid more favorably at the front, and connections were restored everywhere. The dead and badly wounded were a terrible sight; the stretcher-bearers did their heavy duty with self-sacrifice. The 10th Company had suffered the most; their leader, Lieutenant

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Kremers was last seen falling, far ahead of his company, into a shell hole just outside a French blockhouse; his combat walkers had fallen trying to help him. During the night it was possible to provide the small remnants of the companies with at least bread and coffee.

At dawn the northern half, i.e. mainly 1st Battalion, was relieved. The southern part was divided into two sections; Hauptmann v. Bernuth (Fritz), the left captain Prince zu Ysenburg. These new sections eliminated reserves and established bases in the rear area. During the day there was again heavy fire on the front line, the rear area and the wooded areas. Crews and staffs remained in their little burrows and held out with tenacious manly courage. Lieutenant Stolla's legs were torn off by a shell; on the way to the hospital he died singing a sacred song.

It was not until the night of April 8th to 9th that the 2nd and Fusilier Battalions were replaced by Westphalian units. All were overwhelmed by overexertion and mortal distress; exhausted and dull, the riders staggered back. In 48 hours the regiment had lost 20 officers and 600 men; the losses of the 10th company alone amounted to 85 fusiliers, including 22 dead.

The attack had encountered a large, continuous line of defense along the whole front. The enemy recognized what was at stake and threw all the forces they could spare into the fray in wild mass attacks. The weather was also unfavorable to us; with the continued downpours, the clay soil became almost impassable. So the command had to decide to break off the offensive at this point in order to shake the enemy front with new partial blows.

The detached regiment was housed in Fresnoy and Plessier. On April 10, 150 Iron Crosses II. and two I. Class were awarded. The division commander, Lieutenant General v. Friedeburg, expressed his appreciation for the regiment and concluded with the words: "The magnificent deeds in the Senecat forest will not be forgotten by the Augusta regiment!" But the regiment did not have the necessary peace and quiet in its quarters. Enemy artillery fire made it necessary to deploy horses and vehicles outside the villages. Losses also occurred among the teams. The French airmen were very troublesome; on April 12, the division doctor, senior staff doctor Dr. Nicolai, the regimental doctor who had been loyal to him for many years during peacetime, was killed by an aerial bomb in his quarters.

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On April 12, the regiment, this time in association with the 2nd Guards Division, was deployed again for a few days. It was advanced over the Avre crossings and lay with the regimental staff on the Morisel-Braches road, with the 1st Battalion Glaser on standby east of Mailly, and with the 2nd Battalion Ysenburg between Mailly and Thory. The front line consisted mainly of foxholes. All parts of the regiment suffered from the enemy's constant fire. Likewise, his superiority in airmen made itself unpleasantly felt; then came the not-so-popular "chain bombs," always thousands of bombs at once. The Rest Battalion was in tents near Fr  snoy. The horses in particular suffered from the fact that they hadn't seen a warm stable for months.

The front at this point was set up entirely for defense. The forces were structured in depth to avoid casualties. Only light machine guns with few people remained in advance; everything else was also grouped around "clinging points".

The Mailly Thory position was very unfavorable and did the regiment little good. Achievements were unobtainable except on patrol. On April 24, Lieutenant Zogeiser and Lieutenant Steinfatt, with a patrol of the II Battalion, got a Frenchman out of his hole alive by the collar; The next day, Lieutenant Zogeiser received the Iron Cross, First Class. Everyone involved immediately went on vacation. Lieutenant Albanus had been wounded shortly before.

The piece of forest in front of the regiment's front was baptized "Augusta Grove". The order to take this grove could no longer be carried out, since on May 1st the regiment began to change. On May 2nd, a heavy enemy patrol thrust met the last night details of the 6th Company; Lieutenant Schmidt and a few people were taken prisoner through no fault of their own.

In the stage area near Landrecies.

May 8-29, 1918.

On May 3rd the regiment was assembled at Boudoir and Rouvroy, and from here marched in the 2nd Division of the Guard via Croix-Etreillers-St. Quentin. This once thriving city looked desolate. Not a single house was intact, rubble lay everywhere, even the magnificent cathedral had been reduced to ruins by their own countrymen.

The blooming area behind it was all the more touching. Nature revived, the birds chirped; the battle
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The noise of the roof faded more and more, until at last there was complete silence, an enchanting pleasure!

The march continued via Fonsomme-Molain to Prildes south of Landrecies, where the whole regiment was billeted. Prisches is a stately village with many orchards. The Panjes—this honorific name, originally from the East, had been transferred to the French inhabitants—were very trusting.

Upon arrival, one day before Ascension Day, officers and men could bathe, sleep late, get dressed, and then celebrate the holiday rejuvenated.

The recovery period lasted three weeks. A replacement arrived again, with which service was diligently done. Lieutenant Jacobshagen led a course for group *** and platoon leaders. Captain Prince of Ysenburg, who had remained loyal to the regiment since 1914, fell ill. For him, Hauptmann v. Bernuth (Felix) II Battalion; Lieutenant Frr. Rais v. Frentz in turn became his successor as regimental adjutant.

When the weather was nice, the companies recovered quickly. The Pentecost festival could be celebrated in glorious weather. The mood of the teams was good, and the people returning from vacation were all cheerful and in good spirits.

On May 22nd, the Franz regiment held an exercise in the presence of Field Marshal v. Hindenburg instead. The officers of the regiment drove to the practice in trucks as spectators. The Marshal looked very fresh, and spoke in simple, pithy words of his confidence and love for the troops, and concluded: "It is a great pleasure for me to be able to attend the exercise of the division today, a division of the guards, which I am in belonged to at a young age and to which I have the honor to belong again today in old age. I saw today that the old fresh attacking spirit has been preserved. Let's never forget the old Prussian forward; but I don't need to remind you of that!"

On May 27th there was a big team party, the people were in a fabulous mood. On that day a telegram arrived that the 7th Army's attack was progressing well and that the 2nd Guards Division was to be on the alert.

The Battle of Soissons and Reims. June 1-14, 1918 The next major battle was to occupy the French so much that they could no longer help their English allies. The push was to be via Soissons in the direction of Paris
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lead. The mighty height of the Chemin des Dames had to be taken.

The attack began on May 27th. The surprise was a complete success, and that is why the first successes were brilliant. The original objective of the operation had been the Aisne and Vesle, but the infantry advanced across the Aisne on the first day. In a few days the Marne was reached at Chateau-Thierry and Dormans and enormous booty was brought in. The shock army's right wing wheeled west to widen the attack.

The French Chamber demanded a new Commander-in-Chief. The ministers of France, England and Italy appealed to Wilson for help: There was the greatest danger of losing the war.

The regiment was loaded at Landrecies on 29 May, proceeded to Laon and was quartered at Chambry and Verneuil. The advance began at 4 a.m. the next morning via Urcel on Vailly. It was an uplifting moment for everyone to walk down the Chemin des Dames, to whose defense in 1917 many Augustans had sealed their allegiance with their blood. A local bivouac was set up in Vailly. From here you had a wonderful view of the Aisne valley; down there were also the captured French railway guns which had shelled Laon.

On the 31st the offensive, which went well, was followed in great heat, and the beautiful Lesges, south of Braisne, was reached in the afternoon. The thick dust on the streets and the whole mood were reminiscent of August 1914.

On June 1st, at 23° at night, we set out and marched via Launoy into the Bois de St. Jean, where during the day in the high oak und Buchenwalde was deigned. In the evening the march continued to the forest bivouac south of Billy on the Ourcq.

The next morning the regiment received the order: "The 2nd Guards Division will be placed under General Command Winckler and inserted between the 28th Reserve and the 1st Guards Division; Regiment Augusta on the right, Franz on the left. First target: Villers Cotterets-La Werts Milon railway. Augusta regiment moves in immediately and prepares to attack north of Noroy."

The regiment moved in and deployed in its combat zone, with the Fusilier Battalion Bernuth (Fritz) and the 1st Battalion Glaser in the front line. A platoon of escort batteries was assigned to each of these battalions, and a platoon of mortars and engineers was assigned to each battalion; the 2nd Battalion and the

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machine-gun sniper company remained at the disposal of the regiment.

Advancing, the battalions received lively artillery fire in the clear weather, but without much effect. As in general in those days, there was a great deal of activity in the air force; Close air squadrons pelted towns and batteries with innumerable small bombs until the Richthofen combat squadron appeared with its aircraft painted entirely red, finished off several opponents every day and gained supremacy in the air.

At about 2 p.m. the battalions crossed the front line of the 28th Reserve Division and advanced to the attack. The advanced French posts were soon overrun, taken prisoner and machine guns captured. The individual groups worked their way forward with dexterity. Towards evening the attack came to a halt in front of a line of well-concealed machine guns. At the same time the order was received that the planned main attack was not to be carried out until the next day, with the inner wing of the Augusta and Franz regiments against the Buchel woods.

The Fusilier battalion was already lying on the west bank of the Savières creek, about 300 meters from Faverolles. The 1st Battalion used the evening hours to create an assault position on the other side of the stream. Two enemy machine gun nests were dug up, four machine guns captured and 12 prisoners taken. Under the protection of the advanced companies, the pioneers were able to build numerous bridges.

Thus, on the morning of June 3, 430, the regiment was organized for the attack in its sector. Around 515, strong own preparatory fire began; the French immediately called in a barrage of white flares with stars, which also began vigorously. But it was behind the front line, so that no major losses occurred, not even in the 2nd Battalion.

After a quarter of an hour the companies stormed in thick fog. Enemy machine gun fire ensued, inflicting casualties. But fusiliers and grenadiers charged despite the fire. The enemy could not resist and fell back. The Fusilier battalion made good headway and soon crossed the Faverolles-Troësnes road, passing south of Faverolles. Despite strong flank fire from there, the battalion worked its way forward, broke the last resistance in the front and held down the enemy in Faverolles with the infantry escort battery, while at the same time Lieutenant Nadermann advanced against the village with his mortars. Troësnes road by 150,000 feet, the fog rose; the enemy could be seen in full retreat in front of the front, but heavy machine-gun fire from Faverolles now began. The battalion had to stop and turn its right wing company towards the village. The division on the right had not caught up, so the wing of the regiment was now floating freely in the air.

[MAP]

1st Battalion encountered machine gun nests soon after leaving their initial assault position; but with the help of the accompanying weapons they were overcome. The enemy retreated here too. The battalion followed swiftly, also crossing the road and advancing against the railway. More machine gun nests were dug; this took time in the confusing terrain. The Franz regiment was also unable to keep up with the battalion because of heavy machine gun fire. Thus the regiment whose officers and men had advanced with the greatest vigour, was pinned down short of the stated target.

The fighting became more and more stubborn, and so the almost won victory turned into an arduous, costly clinging. Parts of the 11th Company had already penetrated Faverolles, where larger squads surrendered to the French, when the artillery of the neighboring sector again laid heavy fire on the village, so that the riflemen had to leave again.

In the meantime the enemy had recognized the situation of the regiment and launched violent, uniformly directed counter-attacks against the front and flanks. At the same time, machine guns from Faverolles swept along the front line and behind it, cutting off communications to the rear. There were stubborn hand-to-hand combats with the French advancing in the front; with tenacious resentment the company commanders and their followers held out in the line they had fought for. A tank in front of the 1st Battalion was taken out by the infantry escort. The reserves of the battalions bravely threw themselves against the constantly repeated enemy counter-attacks from the railway line and from Faverolles, so that it was possible to hold the Faverolles-Froësnes road against all attacks. But the losses kept increasing. Lieutenant v. Husks, severely wounded, in the enemy's hand and there succumbed to his mortal wound.

The fusilier battalion was assigned the sniper company to cover the right flank, the 1st battalion was assigned a company from the 2nd battalion to cover the left flank and another as a reserve. The last two companies of 2nd Battalion were ready to counterattack behind the middle of the sector east of the Savières creek; the 2nd machine gun company occupied the creek crossings.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon a new major counter-attack by the enemy began; where it reached the road, it had to give way again after a short time. In the evening hours, the Franz regiment also managed to cross the stream, which brought great relief to the regiment.

Nevertheless, by nightfall it was necessary to establish a new line just on the enemy's side of the Savières creek. in which the companies were not so exposed to flank fire from either side. The fusilier battalion turned the front against Faverolles. Although the position was on the rear slope, it had the great disadvantage that the regiment had the stream very close to its rear. The first battalion, which had been thinned out at the start, was withdrawn during the night and replaced by the second. The sections now had the captains v. Bernuth, Fritz and Felix.

It is difficult to describe the mood in which the whole regiment was on the evening of this day of fighting. Again the regiment had done brilliantly, and yet victory turned into failure. 12 officers and almost 600 men had bled, 5 officers, Lieutenants Klein II, Kling, Jäger, Grunow and v. Hulsen, and more than 100 men remained dead. Staff surgeon Koehler

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worked tirelessly all night with his medical staff to help the wounded.

On the whole front the attack had come to a standstill that day. It turned out that the enemy had concentrated his forces here for the most enduring resistance; even the bravest regiments who ran against it in the difficult terrain were unsuccessful. The offensive, which had already gone far beyond all expectations, had to be broken off and resumed elsewhere.

On divisional orders, the attack was not continued the next day. Only patrols advanced to feign further attacks. Each battalion could again draw a company in reserve. Enemy artillery activity had decreased somewhat; towards evening the enemy occupied the rear area with several fire raids. The regimental staff lay in little rabbit-holes on the Savières slope, and had posted a post up the slope at night to keep out unauthorized intruders; Suddenly breaking of two branches, a bang, scolding and wailing: the sentry himself had fallen into the "bedroom" and with his big boots straight onto his regimental commander!

In the early morning of June 5th the regiment was relieved and went back to the forest near Chouy. Here it rested for four days, but had to change its place more often because of the fire.

On the 9th the regiment advanced again and relieved the Franz regiment, which was located to the south of the regiment's previous position. Enemy jamming fire had diminished somewhat, but increased again from June 10th. The final relief arrived on the morning of the 14th; the regiment bivouacked again east of Billy and in the next few days marched via Arcy and Cramaille to Magneux, Courlandon and Villette near Fismes in the Vesle valley, where it was accommodated partly in the villages and partly in large English and French barracks.

Occupation June 1918.

Regimental Commander: Colonel Frhr. grote.

Regimental Adjutant: Lt. Mrs. Raitz v. frentz

Orderly Officer: Lt. Jacobshagen.

Gas Officer: Lt. scholtz

Instruction Officer: Lt. Schultze.

Message comm.: Lt. Suhring.

1st Battalion:

Captain Glajer.

Adjutant: Lt. v. Spangenberg.

1st Comp.: Lt. Angel.

2nd Comp.: Lt. emden

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3rd Comp.: Lt. Herb.

4th Comp.: Lt. Rithershaus.

1. MGK: Oblt. Frond.

II Battalion:

Hptm. Bernuth (Felix).

Adjutant: Lt. Albanos.

5th Comp.: Lt. beer

6th Comp.: Lt. Zogeiser.

7th Comp.: Lt. Schwickert.

8th Comp.: Lt. Monastery.

2. MGK: Lt. Burghardt.

Fusilier Battalion:

Hptm. Bernuth (Fritz).

Adjutant: Lt. Deer.

9th Comp.: Lt. pine branch.

10th Comp.: Lt. way.

11th Comp.: Lt. Fasshauer.

12th Comp.: Lt. Blumenkamp.

3. MGK: Lt. rotter

M.-W.-Abt.: Lt. Nadermann.

Pioneer Dept.: Officer Deputy Kokozinski.

Rest at Fismes.

June 16-July 11, 1918.

The regiment returned, as always after such a period of fighting, with one great need only, and that was rest. But after just a few days it was time to build up again with all your strength. 11 officers and over 500 men from the dissolved Reserve Reserve Regiment 1 arrived. For the most part, this replacement had not previously been in the front line. So the uniform training had to be started again from the ground up. The influenza epidemic, which was spreading in all warring countries, especially in Germany, probably as a result of malnutrition, was very aggravating and also claimed its victims in the regiment. Gradually the state of health improved again, larger exercises could be held. On June 29, a battalion of four divisions was inspected by His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince. Commander of the battalion made up of Augusta, Alexander and Franz was Hauptmann v. Bernuth (Fritz). The Crown Prince saluted the battalions and walked the lines, shaking hands with each front-line officer and addressing many enlisted men. Then he made a short speech in which, in his clear, thanked the troops in simple words for their bravery. general v Friedeburg answered. This was followed by the distribution of Iron Crosses and a march past in group columns. Cheered on by the teams, the crown prince drove back to his headquarters.

On July 6th there was a big sports festival with relay races, sack races, jumping and singing. Hundreds of healed influenza patients returned to the regiment strengthened.

On July 11th the order came that the regiment had to be ready to march in the evening.

The second battle of the Marne. July 15-28, 1918.

In July began the mighty final enterprise of the war, the last great achievement in this difficult struggle, which was to give the first impetus to the setback. It was planned to cut off Reims from both sides and then carry the war of movement into the interior of France through the resulting gap. The 2nd Guards Division was given the important task of advancing in a narrow strip on the north bank of the Marne.

On the evening of July 11, the regiment marched off with a detachment of engineers, an accompanying battery, a battle train, and the baggage wagons loaded with ammunition; the big train and excess luggage were parked. In the dark night we headed south towards the Marne. Although many divisions and columns were on the march, there was no crossing or stagnation, as everything was well prepared.

At 3 a.m. the regiment arrived in the forest 5-Piles south of Arcis-le-Ponsart and bivouaced in thick darkness. Even the smallest bush was filled with troops; during the day no one was allowed to be seen outside his wooded area. Field kitchens and water wagons were also only allowed to drive at night, so that no planes discovered the deployment. The artillery preparation was well thought out. In the division's sector alone 52 batteries were active.

On the evening of July 14, the regiment moved into the forest near Villers-Agron, the staging area for the attack. On the way, a very heavy thunderstorm set in that drenched everyone to the skin. The vehicles got stuck and had to be pushed forward with every effort.

The 2nd Guards Division was to attack from the line of Wald von Trotte south of Authenay with the right wing along the Marne in an easterly direction. In the divisional sector, which was only over a little a kilometer board, the Franz and Alexander regiments came into the front line, the Augusta regiment was to follow behind the middle. Every man knew exactly his tasks, which were shown to him on good pictures from the plane.

When the regiment arrived at its hideout, the preparatory fire began. Millions of shots of all calibers twitched in yellow flames on the slightly cloudy horizon. cannon stood next to cannon; the artillerymen looked all black, so they worked in the steam. Thin fumes of gas hit back and irritated the nose and ears.

At 45° in the morning the foremost left broke into the enemy position, the attack initially made good progress. The regiment followed at 730 am and was able to advance close behind the front line to the heights north of Chatillon.

From here the forest sloped down to a small tributary of the Marne and rose again on the other bank to a ridge which was heavily occupied by the enemy. The Alexander regiment was fighting against this enemy. Only when several batteries under Captain Lancelle opened up and fired directly did the Alexander regiment succeed in taking the opposite heights. At the same time, the II. Battalion under Captain v. Bernuth (Felix), who had just been placed under the Alexander regiment, gave orders to take possession of Montigny, which lay at the foot of the heights beyond.

The battalion had already suffered casualties from heavy artillery fire; it now stepped unfolded out of the forest and threw itself in long lines in one go on the village assigned to it. The French garrison was dealt with by dashing shock troops, and the place fell into the hands of the victorious battalion.

Meanwhile the enemy was still putting up stubborn resistance at Chatillon; here it was only thrown in the afternoon with a newly concentrated artillery effect. For this attack, the Fusilier Battalion was subordinated to the Franz Regiment. It soon reached Chatillon with its papal monument looking far into the Marne Valley. To the right below the Marne flowed between the forest and vineyards. Heavy fire swept across the river, but there were no casualties. Then it went through wheat fields in burning heat. Captain V. Bernuth (Fritz) went in front of his battalion; he saw something blue shimmering in the corn—is it cornflowers? He sprang towards it—and captured an officer and eight men.

It was now unstoppable behind the opponent. At the Moulin du Jour, the battalion suddenly received machine-gun fire from all sides; there was no cover anywhere, the ditch too shallow; but when the foremost companies developed, the enemy withdrew.

With the fall of Montigny the enemy position was broken; the adjoining units, the Franz regiment on the right and the German Jäger division on the left, were also able to gain ground.

But in the vineyards north of Montigny there were a lot of French machine gun nests, defending tenaciously. The Alexander Regiment and the left wing of II Battalion were therefore soon engaged in new heavy fighting. The battalion commander continued to advance along the slopes of the Marne Valley with the 7th Schwickert Company deployed on the right wing. The company came through a ravine and from here, with six machine guns, which Lieutenant Schwickert fetched himself, was able to flank and shoot down a French battalion that was advancing in the Marne Valley. The nests of this battalion flooded back beyond Neuil; this created the longed-for air for the Franz regiment, which was struggling hard in the valley.

Shortly thereafter, the inexorably advancing company succeeded in capturing 7 guns and taking 3 officers and 30 men prisoner. After all, the Germans are always superior to the French in hand-to-hand combat, other things being equal!

The battle for the castle of Vandières, long passed through, raged longer. There, a wounded colonel of the French 115th regiment with a few hundred men defended the building for many hours to the last man.

Around 11 o'clock in the evening the troops went to rest where they were on the bloody field. The strength of the people was exhausted; they had been in hot combat for well over 24 hours, sometimes under the scorching sun.

The success of this first day was great. 40 guns and 14,000 prisoners were the booty. For the 2nd Battalion in particular, the day is a shining day of glory.

On the 16th and 17th, in very hot and sultry weather, the attack continued. Flanking fire from the south bank of the Marne remained uncomfortable. The fusilier battalion took part in the advance towards the Savarts farm, which lay on a plateau surrounded by forest. Heavy fire and severe thunderstorms stalled the movement. Then ground was gained beyond the Ferme, and the Harnotay Ferme was also snatched from the enemy. But beyond it glared from enemy defenses. Leaders of all ranks tried to advance the attack, but with the stubborn resistance in the impenetrable undergrowth of the Savarts Forest it was impossible to advance further. The forces melted away; Besides many brave fighters, Lieutenant Czigan and Fähnrich von d Hardt fell here.

In the evening of that day the regiment had to face the bitter fact that the attack had been halted by the utter exhaustion of the troops.

The whole offensive on both sides of Reims had been betrayed to the enemy several days before; the French had therefore deployed their artillery in depth and everywhere put up stubborn resistance.

On July 18, early in the morning, the regiment replaced the Alexander regiment with the Fusilier and II battalions, while the I remained subordinate to the Franz regiment. This detachment had to take place in pitch darkness in unfamiliar terrain on slippery clay soil; only the flashing grenades helped with the search. The front line now ran between Tincourt and Venteuil, just west of Harnotay Ferme. The whole area was under fire from medium and heavy calibers, resulting in fairly heavy casualties.

When at 9 a.m. the two battalion leaders, Hauptmann v. Bernuth, Fritz and Feliz, who left the front line, began the enemy attack. The enemy managed to break through to the north of the regiment; from there his patrols roamed the wooded terrain behind the front. The front line, troubled by the rear-end firing, was brought to rest by small support detachments and unified leadership restored. The connection to the Franz Regiment, which was about two kilometers further back and to which the 1st Battalion was also subordinate, was established by machine gun squads.

When parts of the Fusilier Battalion were pushed back a little, Lieutenant Faßhauer immediately counterattacked with the 11th Company, which regained the old line. Some penetrating blacks were beaten to death in the back. The 9th Kämmerer Company brought an enemy advancing from the south to a halt.

Lieutenant Schwickert, revolver in hand, took his place at the head of his 7th Company and counterattacked. Several machine gun shots shattered his left arm and right hand, so that with tears in his eyes he had to say goodbye to his company, of which he himself writes: "You never needed to drive these incomparably brave people, no, I had to hold them back!

" the situation is not pleasant. There was a heavy fire in the wooded area; there was thunder and cracking, and there was no sign of the enemy. But Bernuth's two battalions held out tenaciously at the front edge of the forest. Lieutenant Nadermann, the fearless leader of the mortars, was badly wounded while walking around and encouraging his men, and died shortly thereafter in the hospital. Lieutenants Hardrat, Burghardt, Overdiel and Ottmann were also wounded. Captain V. Bernuth (Fritz) now led his two reserve companies to thrust to the left, whereupon he too was wounded. He used his last staff in front of a battery asking for protection, and held out there until the fighting died down. In the afternoon a strong fire with gas effect began, which lasted far too short; therefore the companies were rearranged and had to be reorganized. Captain v. Bernuth (Felix) the companies Faßhauer, Müller and Weger, Lieutenant v. Heydebrand the companies chamberlain and Tate.

The French continued shelling the villages to the rear until late in the evening; it was their special sport to devastate the beautiful villages of the Marne Valley as early as possible with long-range artillery and lay them in ruins. How they would have lived in Germany!

July 18 is the turning point of the war in 1918. On this day the enemy launched a surprising, large-scale counterattack near Soissons. 300 tanks accompanied the infantry and managed to overrun several German rifle lines in the morning fog. The reserves were too weak to restore the situation. From then on the enemy never let the initiative out of his hands. Had we been able to strike at the same time, he would not have succeeded, but we lacked men and war material.

In the night of July 18-19, the divisions that had advanced across the Marne were withdrawn to the north bank. Shifts also occurred in the regiment. The apron was placed in the line Reuil (excl.) - Savarts-Ferme and all preparations for defense were made. In front was the fusilier battalion under Lieutenant v. Heydebrand with his adjutant, Lieutenant Reh, with three companies in the advance zone, with one company and the Fusilier Battalion Alexander, which was replaced the next day by the 1st Augusta Battalion, in the main resistance line. The regimental command post was at the exit from Villers.

The morning of July 21 was quiet. The 11th Company took 4 French prisoners who testified that an enemy attack was intended. They belonged to a division that was newly deployed because "the blacks had enough".

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From 12 o'clock the enemy artillery revived; in addition, its own batteries shot too short. Soon the fire raids became more violent and enemy troop concentrations were observed at Venteuil and Tincourt. At 3:15 a.m. the enemy suddenly shifted their fire to the rear area and attacked with strong forces. But the fire from the overhanging machine guns under Sergeant Bremer hit him in the face, and he was only able to penetrate the linden trees of the Fusilier battalion at a narrow point. Lieutenant Müller immediately deployed his reserves and Lieutenant Faßhauer used them to throw the enemy out of the trenches again; Elsewhere, Lieutenant Weger and four non-commissioned officers fought back the enemy in hand grenade combat. Thus the French attack had collapsed on the whole front; The enemy had to return to their starting positions under the fire of pursuit, suffering heavy casualties. Own losses were small; only Lieutenant Fasshauer received a severe shot in the knee. Heydebrand's battalion had done well.

On July 22 the French infantry had to recover from their defeat and kept quiet. Flanking heavy artillery shelled the Savarts Forest across the Marne. Nearby Lieutenant Thamsen fell. In the afternoon the enemy advanced against the 10th and 11th companies, but were beaten off by machine-gun fire; Losses were only caused by the devastating fire of their own artillery. lieutenant v Heydebrand had pilot signs laid out, a plane came and let down a basket of carrier pigeons with a parachute, which brought a valuable connection backwards. Unfortunately, despite all the urgent reports, it was initially not possible to advance the artillery fire further, so that the excitement was very great at times; for nothing is harder to bear than the fire of our own artillery in the position. On this day the heroic Lieutenant Müller, who had been a firm support and exemplary leader of his company, received a mortal wound. As always, the regimental adjutant, Lieutenant Frhr. Raitz v. Frentz.

In the night of July 24/25, the lines were moved back under the slogan "Berlin-Coblenz" in order to shorten the front. The three battalions should always occupy three lines in a row, the two foremost marching back at night while the third occupied the new apron. All these nocturnal movements went on quietly; Material was taken, the enemy deceived. The well thought out clear orders to withdraw were carried out smoothly. At that time the troops still mastered the enemy as and where they wanted. As a result, mood was good; no one was having suffered a defeat, for which there was no reason even within the regiment.

On the 25th, the Fusilier Battalion occupied the so-called blue apron in the Rodemat forest, while the 1st Battalion moved into the new main line of resistance. The Regimental Headquarters and II Battalion went to Cuisles. Some officers with light machine guns stayed in the old apron to deceive the enemy. The opponent had not noticed the deduction; the very next night his flares rose in front of the former German lines.

On the evening of July 26, this position was also abandoned to save energy and the "brown" position behind it was moved. The regimental staff went to the northern part of the cherry forest. Forward groups fought the cautiously empathetic opponent.

During the night of the 28th to the 29th the regiment was relieved and took up quarters at Dravegny, then at St. Gilles an der Ardre, in a large French barracks hospital where even every man had a bed.

Here the regiment received the news the next day that its commander, Colonel Frhr. Grote, who had led the regiment so calmly and confidently, was appointed commander of the 180th Infantry Brigade. Major Götzke of the 4th machine gun sniper battalion took over the leadership of the regiment for the time being.

The battalions marched further north and reached Roney on July 30th, the forest camps at Sissonne early August 1st, Vigneux first on August 2nd and the final quarters in Harcigny, Plomion and Nampcelle in the evening. The area was not very scenic and very poor.

Food was scarce, there were many dried vegetables without potatoes. A letter from Private Lüning shows how much the soldier's mood depends on such circumstances: "The following day a few parcels from home with bacon and cake strengthened me. Now I had new courage to continue to hold out for my loved ones at home as well as for the whole dear fatherland!"

Peace at Montcornet.

August 1-23, 1918.

The three-week period of rest began, as usual, with bathing, delousing, and repairing things, then progressed to light duty and concluded with major drills and inspections. In addition, sports festivals and other variety provided for quick recovery.

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Such a sports festival took place on a large meadow bordered by hedges. Each company had prepared its place as nicely as possible. This is how tents decorated with wreaths were created, which were connected by linen to lanterns made of wickerwork. Running, jumping and throwing hand grenades began first, then magicians and clowns performed their plays; the regimental music and the canteen brought the necessary atmosphere.

Major Frm. v. Schleinitz, formerly a battalion commander in the 5th Garde Grenadier Regiment, where he had earned his Pour le Merite, was made commander of the regiment and arrived on 5 August. He immediately visited all the quarters and kitchens to make sure of the well-being of the crews. Captain Mrs. v. Kettler, who had been taken prisoner by the Russians as an airman, returned to the regiment. Captain Glodkowski, barely recovered from his severe wound, took over command of the Fusilier Battalion.

The battalions were formed into three companies at this time; the 4th, 8th and 9th companies were disbanded.

Retreat Battles. In the allaines position.

Late August 1918.

Meanwhile the enemy had continued their mass attacks on all fronts.

The 2nd Guards Division was made available to the hard-pressed 2nd Army.

On August 22nd the regiment was ready to march in the quarters near Plonion and advanced to the railway the next day in the evening. After a short drive to Ham and Flavy le Martel it was paraded on lorries to Brie sur Somme.

Here the division was ready to intervene on August 25 behind the Somme between Eterpigny and Lamire-Ferme. The area was well known: on the opposite bank was Barleux, where the regiment had been stationed at the end of 1916. Not a tree and not a house could be seen in the far distance, and the traces of the last battles were everywhere. In the ravines leading to the Somme Bridge alone there were six shelled tanks, and the whole ground was churned up by shells.

The mood was serious. The roar of cannon could be heard not too far away, and everyone knew that more difficult days were ahead. It was like a release from the pressure of the unknown when the command came into action. At the same time, a violent thunderstorm released the tension in the air.

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The 2nd and Fusilier Battalions were loaded in the evening and drove into the dark night in trucks. The journey was not pleasant. The rain fell inexorably; the paths were muddy and slippery. Again and again had to be stopped to make tipping and overturned wagons afloat again. Finally, in the morning hours, the battalions arrived at their destination and were hidden in companies in small wooded areas west of Flaucourt. "Soaked to the skin, shivering from the cold, huddled close together, the only consolation found was scolding and cursing at the people back home," writes Hauptmann v. Bernuth (Felix).

In the morning hours of the 26th the mood improved again. The August sun dried the wet clothes, and a small schnapps helped the inner being again. The food came close and the accommodation could be improved somewhat.

The Schleinitz Division, which also included the Alexander Regiment and two divisions of the 2nd Guards Field Artillery, was organized to repel enemy attacks and placed under the 21st Infantry Division. The enemy's artillery fire was weak at first.

The following day the remaining parts of the 21st Infantry Division were taken back, so that the regiment was now in the front line in the Herbecourt and Flaucourt sectors.

On August 28th the enemy felt the position; in front of the regiment he was turned away everywhere; but the division on the right of the neighboring division had to fall back a few hundred yards, forcing the 6th Company, lying on the right wing, to bend its wing back to the Herbecourt cemetery. Three violent attacks by enemy shock troops were repulsed there with rifles and hand grenades, with heavy losses for the enemy. The dashing Lieutenant Zogeiser went ahead alone with his lad and cleared the trenches in front of his front.

In the night of August 28th/29th the regiment was withdrawn behind the Somme on higher orders. It marched over the bridge near Halle to Moislains, known from 1916, and bivouacked there. During the shelling of Moislains, parts were moved to the canal dugouts east of town.

Since enemy attacks in the direction of Clery had gained ground on August 29, the 2nd Guards Division was assigned to the XI. Assigned to Army Corps. Group Augusta positioned itself as a reserve with the 1st and Fusilier Battalions in the artillery trough south of Bouchavesnes, with the 2nd Battalion just east of it. The Allaines in the dry bed of the canal. The main road to Peronne ran right in front of the staging area.

In the very dark night that followed, the 80th and 81st Regiments, which had advanced a few hundred meters, were relieved. The apron position ran along the "Siegfriedrücken"; on it was the 1st Battalion Frhr. v. Kettler deployed, while the fusilier battalion under Lieutenant v. Wedel occupied the main resistance line on the Seefelderhöhe. The 5th and 8th companies of the 2nd Battalion had to be pushed into gaps in the front; the 6th and 7th companies were kept ready in the artillery hollow for a counterattack.

As a result of the great darkness, and because some of the troops to be relieved had already moved away, the relief dragged on for a long time and was hardly over on the left wing when an English attack began in the morning in 545 without artillery preparation. The attack was repelled in front of the 1st Battalion and the right wing of the Fusiliers. The left wing had no contact with other troops and was therefore turned around; a train was taken prisoner; but since Piotrasch's machine-gun held its ground, the enemy was again thrown out of the trench. In order to fill in the gap left, the commander of the Fusilier Battalion deployed a platoon of the 9th Company in the sector of the neighboring regiment, which cleared the trenches there. During the day the enemy behaved more calmly. During the night of August 31, the enemy fired vigorous jamming fire, which swelled to great strength by 545 am. After half an hour's preparation, the great storm of the Australians set in across the whole front; but the regiment was on guard and turned the enemy away. The machine guns in particular cleared up the attacking English auxiliary peoples. In the adjoining sector to the south, the enemy hit straight into the detachment; this enabled him to advance over the Seefeld Heights into the Staufen Valley. From there, advancing north, he came into the rear of the Fusilier Battalion. The enemy also advanced to the right of the regiment after repeated persistent attacks and thus got into the trenches of the 1st Battalion, where fierce hand-to-hand fighting broke out. Here the lieutenants Kienast, Plath, Preuss, Borggräfe and Ensign Meyer fell; the lieutenants Manzke, Nenno and v. Spangenberg and Feldwebelleutnant Hollnagel were wounded. The front of the regiment began to falter and the wings began to crumble.

To seal off the 5th Company occupied the Seefeld Heights with the front to the south. The 10th and 12th companies

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were developed to reinforce the front, but, after stubborn resistance, they were caught in the flank and rear, together with the commander of the combat troops, Hauptmann Frhr. v. Kettler and Lieutenant v. Spangenberg mostly in captivity.

The 7th Company Franke immediately counterattacked, threw the enemy and reached the eastern slopes of the Seefeld Heights. There she released some cut off people of the I Battalion. But since the company was hanging in the air to the right and left. she had to be taken back to the main road. It was not easy for the company to give up the height again after the brilliantly successful advance. On the way back she came under English machine gun fire. Lieutenant Franke, standing quite calmly on the street above, gave his orders so as not to cause any unrest.

The enemy pushed particularly sharply towards the important artillery trough and attacked the front of the 7th Company with more and more forces, which was now reinforced by parts of the Fusilier Battalion. Again and again he was forced to turn back.

However, gradually the company began to run out of ammunition and hand grenades; so the English, who kept creeping up in the deep trenches leading to the road, had to be killed with butts, bayonet, and spades.

But even on the left the enemy had advanced far beyond the previous line of defense and had reached the canal. Under cover of heavy artillery and machine gun fire, he managed to establish himself on the road, from where he flanked the front of the 7th Company and subsequent parts. Then Lieutenant Franke decided to attack this enemy with people from his company and the battalion orderlies. He also managed to drive the English off the streets. He fell wounded into a shell crater. The English came back and killed all the wounded, but did not find Lieutenant Franke, who could observe everything. Meanwhile, Captain v. Bernuth (Felix) gathered a few people who, under Lieutenant Rotter, who was wounded, counterattacked to free them and finally occupied the road. Lieutenant Weger died a hero's death here.

The 6th Company was deployed against the enemy incursion south-east of Bouchavesnes, wounding its leader, Lieutenant Zogeiser.

In all these fights the associations had become confused; small squads could be seen fighting incoherently everywhere.

The regimental commander now laid down the great Peronne-Bouchavesnes road as the main line of resistance and placed all the troops in the sector under the command of Captain v. Bernuth. When the commander was personally in the process of arranging the formations in front, 430 pm. a new big attack by the English. In some places the enemy managed to advance until Hauptmann v. Bernuth personally with a few telephone operators and messengers from the staff. After the English had been thrown back, Hauptmann v. Bernuth in his energetic way the bandages on the street. It was thanks to his tireless activity alone that the English, who were once more pushing after him, met with stubborn resistance. A counter-attack by elements of the regiment on the right wing even advanced 2-300 meters beyond the road. The last available people were now deployed.

During the night the remains of the 478 Infantry Regiment were made available to the regiment and used as a security garrison in the St. Quentin-Allaines position.

Captain V. Bernuth (Felix) received the high order pour le mérite for fine, particularly dashing behavior that day. There was nobody in the regiment who was not wholeheartedly happy about this, for everyone knew him to be indestructible even in the most difficult times; where he met his people he called to them cheerful or hearty words of encouragement, and his comrades always found rest and refreshment with him. No one has fought in the ranks of the regiment as long as he has.

Heavy artillery fire began early on September 1 at the usual time, followed 20 minutes later by the usual attacks. At first all attempts were rejected; but when the enemy succeeded in advancing on the right-hand neighbor and in positioning machine-guns to cover the artillery hollow, the whole front had to yield to this pressure and retreated to the Allaines position under heavy artillery fire.

Here the riflemen were reinforced by the garrison of this position and taken on by officers, messengers and telephone operators from the regimental staff. The greatest pressure was on the right wing, where a few small detachments of Englishmen advanced close to the Allaines position.

When things calmed down again, the departments were reorganized; Parts of Regiment 478 were on the right wing, followed by the 2nd Guards Engineer Company on the left and the regiment's engineer detachment on the left wing. The remaining remnants of the regiment stood in reserve in the canal, three platoons with a total of 90 men. 6 machine guns were brought into position. Captain Glodkowski assumed command.

In the afternoon it was observed how the enemy tried to advance everywhere; all access trenches were therefore closed.

After very heavy fire, the attacks began again early in the morning of September 2nd. South of the regiment the enemy advanced through Haut-Allaines and then turned north. At the same time the left wing was attacked in the front with hand grenades and from half to the rear by machine gun fire; he could not, therefore, hold out any longer; on the northern edge of Allaines he resisted for a short time, then the remnants of the regiment retreated to the new main line of resistance in front of Aizecourt, where they were taken up by parts of the 1st Bavarian Jäger Regiment. Captain Glodkowski was taken prisoner after being badly wounded. The second line, running along the outskirts of the village, was manned by sappers and the mortar detachment; The prudent and well-proven Lieutenant Winkler assumed command of the sector. The regimental staff went into a hollow east of the Aizecourt-Nurlu road, also under heavy enemy fire. In the afternoon it was still possible to create an apron of about 200 meters by pushing out posts.

During the night the regiment was then replaced by the Bavarian Infantry Regiment 1 and marched into a forest near Aizecourt, the next day to Nonssoy, on September 4 to Le Catelet and on September 5 to Warlincourt.

Here the division stood as the intervention division of Group Conta.

In the very heavy fighting, the regiment had suffered great losses. Among the dead were Lieutenant Schultze and Lieutenant Frhr. v. Keyserlingk.

Battles for the Siegfried north of St. Quentin.

September and the first half of October 1918.

Initially, the regiment could only set up a combat battalion of 3 companies with 3 machine gun companies, even with the newly arriving 200 man replacements. This combat battalion, the Captain v. Bernuth (Fritz) was led by General v. Visited Conta, who was responsible for the division as intervention division. The commanding general expressed his gratitude to the battalion for brave behavior in recent battles.

Immediately after this inspection the battalion had to march to Le Catelet and prepare itself there and at Gouy in cellars and old dugouts as an intervention squadron. A further 300 men from the 1st Battalion, Infantry Regiment 202 arrived here, so that 3 weak battalions could be deployed again; the battalion leaders were the newly appointed Captain Karkowsti, the Captains v. Bernuth (Felix and Fritz).

Regimental Commander: Major Frhr. v. Schleinitz,
regimental adjutant: Lieutenant Frhr. Raitz v. Frenzt,
orderly officers: Lieutenant Maus and Lieutenant Graf Kielmannsegg,
machine gun officer: Lieutenant v. Heydebrand,
Gas Officer: Lieutenant Scholtz,
Court Officer: Feldwebelleutnant Gummert,
Regimental Doctors: Staff Doctor Dr. Koehler, Senior Physician Dr. Hey.
1st Battalion: Capt. Karkowski, Battalion Adjutant: Lt. Wilke,

Orderly Officer: Lt. Auscher,
1st Comp.: Lt. Hegel,
2nd Comp.: Lt. Freisleben, Lt. Fox, Lt. Rühms,
3rd company: Lt. Fritz,
1st Machine Gun Company: Lt. Mühlhausen,
II Battalion: Hauptm. v. Bernuth (Felix), battalion adjutant: Lt. Hasselbusch,
5th Comp: Lt. Winkler, Lt. Benner,
6th Comp: Lt. Zogeiser, Lt. Steinfatt,
7th Comp: Lt. Gresbrand, Lt. Wallmeyer,
2nd Machine Gun Company: Lt. Monastery, Lt. v. Bülow,
Fusilier Battalion: Hauptm. v. Bernuth (Fritz), battalion second-in-command: Lt. Reh, Orderly Officer: Lt. Körber,
10th Comp.: Lt. Schoenemann, Lt. Meinig,
11th Comp.: Lt. beast, Lt. Klein,
12th Comp.: Lt. Beyer, Lt. Thomae,
3rd Machine Gun Company: Lt. Reins,
mortar company: Lt. Buhr, Lt. Nickel, Lt. Greve, Lt. Papenhausen, Feldw.-Lt. May.

The regiment was intended to relieve the Bavarian Life Regiment forward Le Catelet. The position was reconnoitered, then the relief took place during the night of September 11th/12th. The Fusilier Battalion occupied the apron and the main line of resistance with the headquarters in Ronssoy, the II Battalion the artillery protection position and the I Division reserve the canal position at Macquincourt. The regimental command post was in the Vendhuile position, 300 meters north of the Guillemont Ferme.

Combat activity was low in the first few days, only a few scattered shots went into the ruins of Ronssoy. But the
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Airmen were very active on both sides; the enemy had the superiority, could fly low with impunity, and tried to attack the German balloons. In one such attempt, Vice Sergeant Rüger of the 11th Company managed to shoot down the enemy attacker with his light machine gun.

The main line of defense was further strengthened; Resistance nests were set up everywhere and manned with machine guns and the newly introduced, large-caliber tank guns. Patrols were dispatched to the foreland to ascertain enemy activity.

Gradually the enemy worked their way up. On September 17, a strong patrol penetrated the apron between Franz and Augusta; she was expelled, but she managed to take four men of the regiment with her.

All signs indicated that another major attack was imminent.

As early as September 18, at 520 in the morning, violent barrages began.

Smoke, gas, and high-explosive shells rained down on the foremost battalion for an hour; soon there was nothing to be seen for the smoke and steam. When the fire died down, Hauptmann v. Bernuth (Fritz) sent flares and sent runners and reporting dogs to the regimental staff. But several reports were already coming in that the enemy had broken through on the right and were with tanks in the rear of the battalion. Captain V. Bernuth distributed the last ammunition and hand grenades to the people on his staff in order to put a bolt on Ronssoy with them, but a closed English company was already advancing in the village. There was nothing left but to go back to Lempire. In big leaps, everyone escaped with difficulty from the almost complete circle and then gathered again at the edge of the next village.

In the meantime the regimental commander had put the 5th and 6th companies on the march, with orders to increase Ronssoy. They advanced dashing under heavy machine-gun fire across the main road, where they engaged in hand-to-hand combat with the English. Our own troops were no longer visible there, and so the companies had to be withdrawn to the artillery defences, and from here, after repelling several English attacks, to the Le Sart Ferme. There was again a connection to the neighboring regiments. The canal position was manned by supply teams for security reasons.

In the night, immediately after 4 o'clock, heavy fire began on both sides of the sector, while the regiment remained suspiciously quiet. At 10 a.m. thick fog set in; the

reserves were kept ready. Every now and then the English work their way up to you. Heavy losses could be inflicted on the enemy, especially by the 5th and 6th companies, in hand grenade combat. In the course of the afternoon, however, contact was lost on both flanks, so that the lines had to be withdrawn to Le Sart Ferme itself. Here the 3rd and 7th companies were in front, the 1st and 2nd in the artillery position, the 5th and 6th there on standby. Captain Karkowski was in command. During the last retreat, field junior surgeon Hoelzer and his medical teams self-sacrificingly stayed with the wounded and were taken prisoner; Lieutenant Beast had fallen in battle.

September 20 began again with heavy fire, this time on the entire divisional sector. The readiness of the enemy infantry to attack was recognized in time and their attempts to attack were stifled by concentrated artillery fire. In the evening the enemy fire again increased to great intensity. This time it was our own airmen who came to the rescue and attacked the enemy infantry with bombs and machine guns, so that the intended attack was not carried out.

Artillery combat continued the next day, followed shortly before 8 a.m. by a broad-front infantry attack. But it was possible to force the enemy to turn back with heavy losses. Four tanks were destroyed in front of the regiment, one was destroyed behind the line; Lieutenant Winkler got an officer and a man out of it, still alive. Lieutenant Fritz and his men threw the English out of a small section of the trench that they had occupied. After all these successes, the mood in the regiment was again very elated; the commanding general also expressed his appreciation for him.

In the next three days, from 22.-24. September, the regiment repulsed all enemy attacks. If small sections of the trench were occupied by the enemy, they were immediately taken back in a counterattack. Lieutenant Steinfatt in particular distinguished himself in such a push, taking prisoners in the process. Lieutenant Fritz fell under enemy fire. On the 24th the 2nd Guards Division was mentioned with honor in the German army report, Lieutenant General v. Friedeburg received the Pour le mérite; and the next day the French reported:

"Between Hargicourt and Belle Eglise stood the 2nd Guards Division of the Germans, which fought with extraordinary bravery. She had previously been involved in fierce fighting on the Marne and Aisne. The reinforcements of all kinds which it has

gradually absorbed to make up for its losses have not diminished its worth, nor the tenacity of its traditional ambition. The resistance of this German force increased to superhuman levels. They fought all day against the great bulk of our troops."

On the evening of September 24, advance detachments of the 80th and 84th Regiments arrived; the regiment was relieved and marched back to Villers Outreaux. There, accommodation was obtained in cellars and shelters, because the place was under fire. A combat battalion was set up with the following composition:

Leader: Hauptmann v. Bernuth (Fritz),
adjutant: Lieutenant Reh, aide-de-camp: Lt. Körber,
Comp. A from the 1st Comp.,
Comp. B from the 2nd and 3rd Comp.,
Comp. C from the 5th, 6th, 7th Comp.,
Comp. D from the 10th, 11th, 12th Comp.,
Machine Gun Comp. A from the 1st and half a 3rd machine gun company,
machine gun company B from the 2nd and half a 3rd machine gun company.

For the 27th, the combat battalion was again brought forward to the Siegfried Position, which was under heavy fire; the shelters were still good.

On the 29th the battalion had to advance again after receiving reports of an enemy penetration at Bellicourt and occupied the position of Lormisset-Ferme-Estrées. The battalion was also here on September 30th and October 1st. Several English attacks were repelled. In these days, too, some people proved themselves to be particularly good. Among them was Vice Sergeant Thomas of the 2nd Machine Gun Company, who held out to the last by his machine gun. When he then did not want to make any statements about the German position to the English captain, the latter threatened that he wanted to have him "put against the wall". But Thomas remained firm, which made an impression on the Englishman.

After the relief on the evening of October 1, the regiment moved to Elincourt and Clary.

On October 3rd suddenly the order came to counterattack an enemy who had broken through—where, how far, when, all unknown. Therefore, the three combat battalions of the division under the well-tried Major v. Voss on both sides of the Roman road in the direction of Estrées, namely Augusta on the right, Alexander on the left of the road, Franz in the second line. Connection to other troops was not available. The Augusta Battalion, now Lieutenant v., advanced along the street as if on the unfurled parade ground. It came over hill and dale, in the sunshine, until just before Estrées. Here it encountered a strong enemy and had to cede a greater height to the advancing English. Lieutenant Hardrat, who operated a machine gun in an exemplary manner, fell in the process; Lieutenant Kloster was wounded. In the dark of night the battalion, as ordered, advanced to the Beaurevoir-Geneve railway south of Ponchaux.

On the following day, the enemy first showered the positions with very heavy artillery fire, but without success, since the regiment was well dug in, covered behind hedges. Then the enemy infantry attacked with a lot of guts. The regiment allowed them to come close and suddenly opened fire, simultaneously with machine guns stationed in the rising rear area, so that the attack came to an immediate halt. When the mortars then attacked the English, they flooded back head over heels. There was great joy about the beautiful victory!

A small nest of Englishmen had held out in front of the front. A machine gun fought it from the railway embankment, but the gunner kept rolling off the embankment with a shot in the head. The company commander, Lieutenant Benner, as always a brilliant role model for his people, took up the fight himself with the machine gun and died a hero; besides him the company had to complain about 5 gunners; but finally managed to get rid of the English nest.

In the afternoon the enemy repeated his heavy artillery fire; but his infantry rose no more to-day.

So this day meant a nice defensive victory. Hence the regiment was in an enthusiastic mood; once again one felt oneself superior to the enemy.

October 5th was a repeat of the previous day; but since the favorable points for the enemy's approach were already known, and artillery, machine guns and riflemen had zeroed in on them, the English infantry attacks in the morning and afternoon quickly collapsed. Just to the right of the regiment, Beaurevoir was captured by the enemy, and it was from here, on Sunday morning, October 6, in dense fog, that he attempted to advance into the regiment's right flank. But the machine-gun base in Mühlhausen, which was tasked with protecting the flank, paid close attention, allowed the enemy to approach and then shot them down. A survivor confirmed that after 1-2 days of fighting the enemy divisions were replaced by fresh troops. On the other hand, when you saw the emaciated remnants of the German divisions!

On the evening of that day, the army commander expressed his special appreciation to the Augusta Combat Battalion, which in turn lifted the spirits.

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Her Royal Highness wrote: "I am particularly grateful for the heroic deeds of Captain v. Bernuth and Lieutenants Winkler, Zogeiser and Rotter at the head of equally brave grenadiers and fusiliers. I send you all the most faithful, heartfelt greetings. In wistful sorrow, I also take the warmest part in the heavy losses of my dear regiment. A special greeting goes to Sergeant Piotrasch and his death-defying troop and hearty congratulations and God bless the whole regiment."

On the morning of October 7th, instead of the English, Americans attacked. After heavy artillery fire, they advanced boldly but very clumsily. The machine guns mowed them down in rows. When the grenadiers on the railroad embankment saw how desperately the men from the other continent, who were not used to fighting, ran back and forth, they stormed out of their position with their edged weapons and hunted down the newcomers; above all, as always, Lieutenant Winkler. The coveted portions of meat were first taken from the prisoners. When they were interrogated, they immediately stuck cigarettes in their faces and were very happy with their lot. After all, fighting for this people meant nothing more than a kind of sport.

Heavy enemy fire began early in the morning of October 8; Smoke grenades enveloped the whole area in high, impenetrable clouds. In between there was a furious noise of battle. Around 630 the infantry attack began; dense crowds of Americans emerged from the fog; the infantry immediately fired on everything that came into view; these parts did not appear further. But when the battalion commander went onto the wing, he saw long-formed detachments of people with flat steel helmets advancing on the

heights north and east of Ponchaux, and in part turning towards Ponchaux. Soon the enemy pressed on the battalion from both flanks and from behind. Tanks rattled up the street, firing...

Lieutenant Winkler turned to the battle with the second line and held the attackers in check, but the battle was too unequal against the crushing superiority; the only option was to fight backwards in small squads. During this retreat Lieutenant Nickel, who was the last to follow his men, fell. Private Czega particularly distinguished himself.

Now it was a question of setting up a favorable place for new resistance. First a front was made between Ponchaur and Premont; but after a short time the retreat to Maretz had to be continued. Enemy cavalry already occupied Premont. At the forest south-east of Maretz a new line was then established, which was properly divided up and manned. The enemy

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did not exploit his success; he had not learned the war of movement and was content with the occupied towns.

Soon after, the remnants of the 2nd Guards Division were pulled out of the position. The elements of Combat Battalion Augusta arrived in Busigny late at night. After days of exertion and the unusual retreat, they were exhausted physically and mentally; they had first to strengthen themselves by long sleeps. All companies had shown excellent spirit in the last battles.

On October 10, the remnants continued to march backwards. Passing a church from which the organ was playing, they entered and straightened themselves to the old hymns. In Ors the regiment gathered under Major v. Voss and marched via Berlaimont to Erquelinnes, where it stayed in good accommodation to refresh itself. Here 150 men arrived from the Russian front and from Germany; they brought the new cry of "Lights out, knives out, cut him down!", which from now on became the battle roar of all light-shy rabble. The old Augustans remained reliable.